Circumstances rendered it unlikely that the depressed classes would obtain adequate representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council without adequate protection. Only by separate electorates could their interests be safeguarded. Nomination should be abandoned because nominated members could not always be expected to be bold in their advocacy of the claims of the people whom they were supposed to represent. Accordingly, separate electorates should be created for the representation of the depressed classes in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Madhavan, most of the subjects dealt with by you in your representation have already been urged by other members ; and I have replied to many of them. There are some suggestions that you have made with regard to the educational facilities for the pupils from the depressed classes. The Government will carefully consider those suggestions.

155. Some suggestions for the elevation and protection of the depressed classes.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Nominated*) said that all non-caste Hindus who were not allowed to enter temples or who were converted to Christianity could be called members of the depressed classes. They were the victims of unmerited hardship and grave social wrong. They could be protected and elevated only by social legislation.

Government should introduce the necessary legislation for—

(i) encouraging intermarriages among the various sections of the depressed classes ;

(ii) securing uniformity in the devolution of properties ;

(iii) restricting the hours of labour in factories, mills, etc. ;

(iv) admitting the tenants' claim for the value of improvements on the *jenmies'* and *kanom*-holders' properties ;

(v) making it obligatory to nominate at least two *kudiyan* representatives in the Legislative Council, to represent the cause of the cultivators ; and

(vi) for restricting the powers of the Legislative Council in matters concerning the material advancement of the depressed classes, *e. g.*, half-fee concessions, registry of lands and preference in public service.

The Rules of the Road Board should be revised with a view to securing adequate representation of the depressed classes on that body. It would avoid the difficulties that might possibly arise in throwing open to all communities the roads maintained out of public funds.

Government should adopt a more sympathetic attitude towards the depressed classes, who were mostly engaged in industries such as coir-making, mat-making and weaving. Those industries should be amply protected by tariffs. An economic survey should be conducted in the State.

The date stamps on Anchal covers and Anchal seals should be in the vernacular – Malayalam or Tamil – in order to enable members of the depressed classes to read the date of despatch, etc., of communications.

A depressed classes committee should be appointed to suggest measures to be adopted by Government for the elevation and protection of those communities.

The depressed classes should be given additional educational facilities. They should be granted full fee concession and exempted from examination fees. Qualified members should be promptly entertained in service.

The depressed classes should be given better representation in representative institutions and local bodies.

The backward communities had no common place of worship. The members of those communities who were converted to Christianity had churches which were erected by missionary bodies. The members who were Hindus should be given free sites and building grants for erecting temples. The Devaswom Commissioner should be empowered to supervise the management of the temples of the depressed classes.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankaran, your first point was that there should be legislation regarding succession, marriages and other matters in regard to the communities forming the depressed classes. That is a matter which is already under the consideration of Government.

Your suggestion in regard to legislation in other directions—you wanted legislation recognising intermarriages, labour problems and tenants' improvements—will be considered by Government.

You then said that in committees and other bodies the depressed classes must be represented. As a matter of fact, to committees on which such representation is necessary or helpful they are appointed.

Your suggestion as to the constitution of the Road Boards will be taken into consideration when the Road Board Rules are revised.

Another suggestion of yours was that the date stamps used by the Anchal Department must be in Vernacular—Malayalam or Tamil. That will be taken note of by Government.

Then you referred to the question of granting exemptions from the payment of examination fees, which exemption is now confined to the first two years in any one class. I am doubtful if the extension of that concession to a long period would be an unmixed blessing; because, if there is one evil that we are suffering from more than any other, it is the persistence with which people try to pass examinations, even though these examinations lead to nothing. If it is found that a student is not able to pass an examination even after two years of study instead of one, it is doubtful whether keeping him in the same class again and encouraging him to go on wasting his time in that class

would be of benefit to anybody. However, that suggestion of yours will also be noted.

Then, you made some suggestions as to the help that Government might render to these depressed communities in their endeavours towards their religious advancement. That is a weighty suggestion and will also be considered.

156. Some suggestions relating to the grant of further concessions to Cheramars in view to their uplift.

MR. PARADI ABRAHAM ISAAC (*Nominated*) thanked Government for having granted fee concessions to Cheramar pupils in the English and vernacular schools. But such concessions were not granted to the Cheramar students in colleges. Scholarships should be instituted for their benefit in the colleges.

A certain number of scholarships should be instituted in every taluk for Cheramar pupils.

Some young men of the Cheramar caste, who had passed the Vernacular School Leaving Examination, were unemployed. They should be appointed in some department or other.

The age-limit for entertainment in public service should be raised from 25 to 30 in the case of Cheramars. Cheramars who had no examination qualification should be appointed as peons in the Huzur Office and in the various departments.

The number of the co-operative societies started by Cheramars numbered 120. Men of the Cheramar caste should be appointed as Inspectors and Supervisors.

Cheramar women should be appointed as nurses in hospitals for attending on patients who belonged to the depressed classes.

For the benefit of the labouring classes, the *Cheramar Sangham* had opened night schools in some villages. Those institutions were conducted without grant-in-aid from Government. Duly qualified teachers should be appointed in those schools. The cost of the staff and the lighting charges should be met by Government.

Cheramars should be given due representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Isaac, നിങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനത്തിൽ അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഏതാനും ചിലതിനെ മുഴുവടിപ്പറയാം നിങ്ങൾ ആദ്യമായിട്ടു പറഞ്ഞതു കോളേജ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു ഫീസൌജന്യം ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നും അധ്യാപകർക്കുകൂടി കോളേജ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു ഫീസ് സൌജന്യം നൽകണമെന്നുമാണു്. എന്നാൽ കോളേജിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ ഏതാനും ചില വേതനങ്ങൾ നൽകിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ വേതനം കൂടുതൽ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ഗവൺമെൻറു് ആലോചിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണു്.